



Field Address
3112-5 Nakagomi
Saku Shi, Nagano Ken
385-0051 Japan
maariffel@gmail.com
574-914-0045

Sending Church
Grace Baptist Church
Pastor Matt Elliott
1830 N Michigan St.
Plymouth, IN 46563
(574) 936-3445

Mission Agency
World Wide New Testament
Baptist Missions
P.O. Box 725
Kings Mountain, NC 28086
www.wwntbm.com



No Obon Festival!

Thank you once again for your much-needed prayers for us and the ministry here in Japan. Especially because we are in the very heart of the country, every year, we are saddened and can sense the Satanic oppression as the Japanese celebrate the festival of the dead called Obon. Everywhere you go, you can see special decorations, lanterns, and other ritualistic customs honoring the spirit of their ancestor's. But this year, with Corona Virus, it was a sigh of relief and praise to the Lord that all temple festivals were canceled in our area. There were no beating of the drums and many did not burn fires to invite the spirits into their homes. Please keep praying for God to open the eyes of the blind to the truth and for open doors to share the gospel with people.

Rain, Rain go away

This has been definitely a summer of rain. Usually the rainy season ends in June but this year it just seems to continue and will not go away, like this Corona Virus ordeal. However, we praise the Lord for His continued working and blessing in our lives and church. We have been in Japan now for 8 years and every year it has rained during our Barbeque Outreach which we hold during Obon. However, this year for the first time, the Buddhist festivals were not taking place and God gave us beautiful weather all day long. We thank the Lord that the Shima family, whose children we teach English to, came for this outreach and listened well to the Word of God. Please pray for their salvation.



When it rains, it pours.

The same week we were very busy getting ready for our BBQ outreach, we got a call from our church landlord that it was flooded. A pipe connection had broken and had been spilling out for three days flooding a good portion of our church and running out the door. Earlier in the week I had decided to preach about thankfulness and it sure was a test and reminder for us to make sure we thank the Lord in all things. This year the BBQ which is always done on the 15th, ended up on Saturday. Because we already had tents set up for that, we were able to easily change our Sunday service outside at our house as the church was still a mess. After a couple very busy



weeks of cleaning up, we praise the Lord that there has not been too much damage and we did not have to replace the carpet or tear out walls. God is good!

She is coming to Church!

Mom has been teaching Mrs. Eiko English and Bible for many years and she had accepted the Lord as her savior many years ago. However, her working on Sundays had prevented her from being able to grow and come to church. Through different circumstances, in June she quit her job and has been faithfully coming to church ever since. She shared with me how God has blessed her since making that decision. She has gotten victory over some bitterness she held for 30 years and been able to restore a relationship with her neighbor who had always been at odds with her. Please pray for her continued spiritual growth and for mom as she continues to disciple her. Also please pray for her unsaved husband to come to church and receive the Lord. Another man, Luiz, who lost his job has been coming back to church as well. Please pray for his growth.

Continuing On

Although Japan has not been hit as hard as America by Covid 19, the cases here have been growing steadily over the last month. We are continuing to have only Sunday morning SS and worship service at the church with mid-week prayer meeting online. Please pray for wisdom in the days ahead and clear direction from the Lord. As there is not as much fellowship at church, please pray for God to encourage and strengthen and for the devil not to be able to discourage, distract or derail the believers here. Please also pray for one person we know who is struggling with bitterness. We praise the Lord that although three of our men have lost their jobs because of Covid, God is meeting their needs.

Prayer needed

In our last letter we asked prayer for Yuichi's spiritual growth and for their family to find a larger apartment. We praise the Lord that they were able to find a large government apartment and Yuichi came to church last Sunday. However, because of Covid, he has lost his job. Because he doesn't have a driver's license, the only job available is far away. In Japan, it can easily cost \$3,000 to get a License for the first time. He is planning to work this job living away from his family for the 6-month contract so that he can get his license and get a job here is Saku. However, his wife, Rose, who has 3 children already, is pregnant now with twins and will be due the month Yuichi returns. Please uplift them all in your prayers.

Abigail's Corner

Junior High! It is hard to believe our little girl has already started 7th grade but she sure has. She has grown so much not only in height but even more importantly, in the Lord for which we are so proud of her.

Your servants for the Lord, Michael, April, and Abigail